

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Claims 1-33 were pending in the subject application. Claims 2, 32, and 33 have been cancelled without prejudice to filing in a continuing patent application that claims the benefit of the subject application's filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Claims 1 and 15 have been amended hereinabove. Accordingly, claims 1 and 3-31 are pending in the subject application.

Merely to expedite prosecution, applicants have amended the claims to fall within the generic concept created by the Patent Office and found patentable. For the record, applicants again traverse the restriction requirement and the premise that a process claim of this type is subject to restriction as alleged by the Patent Office. A divisional application claiming the relinquished subject matter is being filed concurrently. Since no rejection or objection to the pending claims remains, issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If a telephone conference would be of assistance in furthering prosecution, applicants request that the undersigned attorney be contacted at the number below.

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No fee, other than the fee for a two-month extension of time, is required in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment. If any fees are deemed necessary, authorization is given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 08-2525.

Respectfully submitted,



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